

REMARKS

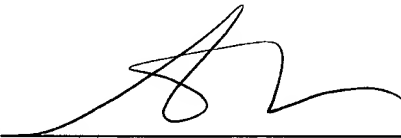
Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of the amendment above, claims 5, 6, 9, and 23-27 will be pending, wherein it is proposed to amend claims 5 and 24-26 into independent form, and cancel claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10 and 20-23. Entry of these amendments in the period after a final rejection is appropriate because these amendments place the application in immediate condition for allowance. Specifically, in accordance with the indication of allowability in paragraph 8 of the Office Action, claim 5 has been amended to include the elements of claim 1, claim 24 has been amended to include the elements of claims 1 and 2, claim 25 has been amended to include the elements of claims 1 and 3, and claim 26 has been amended to include the elements of claims 1 and 4. Claims 6, 9 and 27 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from an allowable independent claim.

Since all rejected claims have been canceled, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in immediate condition for allowance. Notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding this response, or the application in general, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at 703-838-6578.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

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